

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 5, 6, 10 and 12 contain patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections discussed below.

Claim 7 is objected to because of informalities. Applicant has hereby amended claim 7 to obviate the Examiner's objection.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant amends the claims to remove any ambiguities.

In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant amends claim 1 to include the patentable subject matter of claim 3, as well as intervening claim 2. In addition, allowable claims 10 and 12 have been rewritten into independent form.

In view of these amendments, allowance of this application is now believed to be in order, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/070,639

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen R. Smith
Registration No. 43,042

Attorney Docket No.: Q68790